

IN THE CLAIMS

Applicants hereby present the claims, their status in the application, and amendments thereto as indicated:

1. – 22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A saddle tree comprising:
a tree body having a pommel end and a cantle end, the tree body being formed from a flexible resin material allowing lateral flexing of the tree; and
a head plate disposed within the pommel end of the tree body; and
a Y-shaped strengthening bar disposed within the tree body and indirectly coupled to the head plate at a junction formed by the tree body, the junction being a point of articulation for the tree body, wherein the forks of the Y-shape are directed towards the cantle end of the saddle tree body and wherein the strengthening bar is made from carbon fibre.

24. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 23 wherein the strengthening bar is made from bidirectional carbon fibre bonded with epoxy resin.

25. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 23 wherein the pommel end of the saddle tree is angularly adjustable.

26. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 23 further comprising a head plate located near to the pommel end.

27. (Original) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 26 wherein the head plate is malleable.

28. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 26 wherein the head plate is securable in an aperture located in the saddle tree.

29. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 26 wherein the head plate is formed integrally within the saddle tree.

30. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 26 wherein the head plate is formed from malleable steel.

31. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 23 further including two recessed portions, one at either side of the tree near to the pommel end, in which stirrup bars are securable.

32. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 23 further comprising a sheet of bi-directional carbon fibre applied to at least one of the upper and lower surfaces.

33. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 23 further comprising girth web apertures located at both the pommel and the cantle end.

34. (Previously amended) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 23.

35. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 24.

36. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 25.

37. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 26.

38. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 27.

39. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 28.

40. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 29.

41. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 30.

- 42. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 31.
- 43. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 32.
- 44. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 33.
- 45. (Previously presented) A saddle tree as claimed in claim 23 wherein the flexible resin material is a polyurethane resin.
- 46. (Previously presented) A saddle comprising the saddle tree of claim 45.